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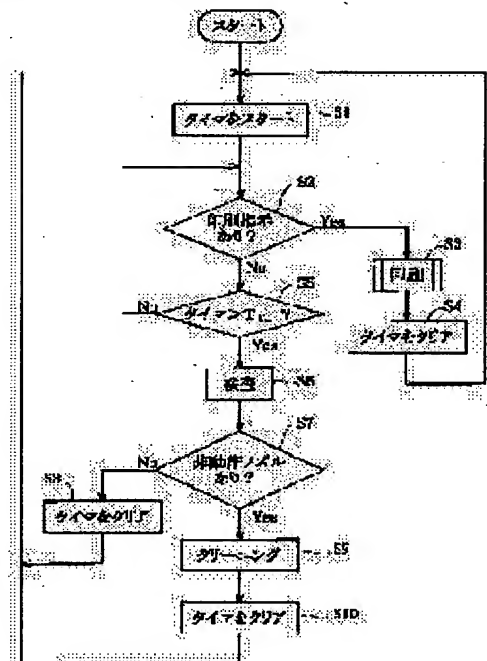
JP

(54) METHOD OF INSPECTING NOZZLE BEFORE CLEANING OF NOZZLE

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To prevent clogging by cleaning by a method wherein non-cleaning can be selected when there is not a nozzle having the clogging.

SOLUTION: In an automatic periodic cleaning during non-use time period of a printer, presence or absence of an ink drop ejected from each nozzle is inspected in advance of the cleaning to determine that each nozzle is an operable nozzle available of ejecting an ink drop or an inoperable nozzle unavailable of ejecting an ink drop. Only when an inoperable nozzle is detected, the cleaning of the nozzle is executed.



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